

ANNUAL REPORT 2021



MISSION & VISION

Our mission is to protect and restore
Indigenous cultures, empowering
them in the direct application
of traditional knowledge
and practices on their
ancestral lands.

“*The Cultural Conservancy is creating
the space for Native peoples to put their
hands into the land and start to unlock
the knowledge and richness that has
been passed on from generation to
generation on this place.*”

— Kaimana Barcarse (Kanakanaka Hawai'i)



LETTER FROM LEADERSHIP

DEAR COMMUNITY

It is a deep honor to write to you in my new role as TCC's Chief Executive Officer. It has been a privilege to accept the opportunity to step up to this new role as Melissa Nelson shifts into her new role as our President Emerita and Chair of the Board of Directors. I continue to be in awe of our culturally informed multi-year succession approach and grateful for how this transition has deepened our partnership and work together. Melissa remains deeply connected to TCC as our historical memory, partner, mentor, guide, and sister.

As for many, 2021 was a challenging yet remarkable year for TCC. The pandemic continued to create complexities in how we run our primarily in-person programs and community work which challenged us to find innovative ways to fill the needs while working within the restrictions induced by the pandemic. Despite these challenges, we grew significantly as an organization which allowed us to increase our program capacity and, in turn, increase our service to community.

Our strong and committed staff is the reason we were able to successfully pull through the year's challenges and continue our good work. Our new land base, Heron Shadow, sings to us as we tend the land throughout the seasons and build her into an Indigenous biocultural heritage oasis. Heron Shadow gives us the capacity to strengthen and deepen the work we do in exceptional ways. As we clear the land, revitalize traditional land-tending relationships, and plant Native seeds for cultivated growing, we purposefully tend Heron Shadow to prepare the way for a Native place of refuge and learning.

I am grateful to our Board of Directors – Melissa Nelson, Kimla McDonald, Stefano Varese, Lois Ellen Frank, and Debra Harry – for their exceptional leadership, mentorship, hearts, and minds in guiding TCC to serve its mission. You will see in the following pages the extraordinary work TCC has accomplished. Through this report we celebrate the strength of TCC's circle – our staff, board, partners, and supporters – who have helped make our good work possible.

On behalf of our entire team, thank you for your support and dedication to the work we do.

Chiokoe utte'esia, chiokoe utte'esia, chiokoe utte'esia,



Sara Moncada (Yaqui)
CEO



2021

YEAR AT A GLANCE

STEPPING INTO THE VISION OF HERON SHADOW

- ⦿ Cultivated first acre of land with traditional heirloom Native foods and seeds
- ⦿ Expanded tree and fruit orchard, planted over 50 new trees, including 10+ new varieties of fruit trees
- ⦿ Built and installed greenhouse for propagation
- ⦿ Upgraded water system with large storage tanks and comprehensive water filtration system for clean water



GROWING NATIVE FOOD JUSTICE & FOODWAYS

- ⦿ Grew, donated, and distributed over 8,100 pounds of fresh produce, 50+ Native heirloom seed packets, and 275 plant starts to Native communities
- ⦿ Launched Native Seed Library with over 100+ traditional, heirloom seeds
- ⦿ Hosted community elders to document traditional foodways dialogues, outdoor cooking classes, and local historical stories on land practices and cultural connections



STRENGTHENING NATIVE-TO-NATIVE RECIPROCITY THROUGH OUR MINO-NIIBI FUND

- ◉ Awarded 18 grants to Indigenous communities in 9 countries
- ◉ Funded 5 new grantee partners
- ◉ Supported Native women's weaving cooperative, community health projects, language revitalization and cultural site protection, among others
- ◉ Received first-time unsolicited support for the Mino-Niibi Fund from the David & Lucille Packard Foundation

CONNECTING AND SHARING THROUGH NATIVE MEDIA

- ◉ Partnered with American Indian Cultural Center San Francisco to create and distribute new online Native Foodways educational and cultural teaching videos
- ◉ Partnered with Indigenous Seed Keepers Network to produce and create new short film on power of seed rematriation movement
- ◉ Launched Season 3 of Native Seed Pod educational podcast series



BUILDING NETWORKS OF RESILIENCE

- ◉ Safely opened land to community partners for Native youth cultural teachings, land engagement and revitalization
- ◉ Expanded regional food distribution network with new partners for sourcing food donations and community food distribution including Sonoma County Indian Health Project and American Indian Cultural District San Francisco

NATIVE FOODWAYS & HERON SHADOW

GROWING THE CIRCLE OF RELATIONS

Heron Shadow has given us the capacity to strengthen and deepen our work in exceptional ways. In 2021, we focused on land tending and ecological restoration work at Heron Shadow while slowly and safely opening up to community participation amidst the ongoing challenges of the pandemic.

We continue to see and experience how the pandemic has amplified the already dire food insecurity and health needs of the San Francisco Bay Area Intertribal community. With Heron Shadow, we were able to grow and strengthen our regional food justice direct work, expanding networks and community partnerships.

PLANTING, TENDING, GROWING, HARVESTING, AND SHARING

- ⦿ Increased the amount of fresh, healthy foods sourced and distributed to community by more than 2,000 pounds from previous year, a 58% increase from 2020
- ⦿ Planted over 100 California native plants and trees, launching ethnobotanical restoration project
- ⦿ Hosted multiple community food, seed, and plant start giveaways at regional Native events as community started to safely gather again

COMMUNITY WORK ON THE LAND

Our community partnerships and gatherings help guide our work and programming. We are driven by community need, requests, and dialogues which highlight the importance of strengthening food sovereignty and improving access to safe lands and clean waters for the Bay Area Native community. In 2021, we were honored to respond to community requests and host several small, outdoor gatherings on the land.

Among those gatherings, we hosted the Sogorea Te' Land Trust community from the Oakland East Bay region. We provided safe, outdoor spaces to urban Native families challenged by city lockdown fatigue so they could leave the city and experience two days of cultural teachings, land engagement, and overnight camping.

“After a year of waiting to come together in real life, we got to visit Heron Shadow, a Native place of refuge and learning for community—Just to be as safe as possible, we met together outdoors, at distance, with masks. What a gift to sleep in the starlit orchard and come together under the shade of walnut trees. We look forward to continuing to grow Indigenous-led food sovereignty, revitalization of ancestral and cultural knowledge, and access to land and decolonial wellness together.”

—STLT Facebook, August 5, 2021





“With so much gratitude I accepted this role to tend and nurture this land, which includes being a voice for the native plants and wildlife and also to be an anchor for the human community we are cultivating here. I am very excited to be a part of this dynamic, knowledgeable, and heart-centered TCC team.”

— Redbird Willie (Pomo, Paiute, Wintu, & Wailaki), Land Manager

SONG OF THE LAND GROWS STRONGER AS ANCESTRAL RELATIVES RETURN TO HOMELANDS

As an intertribal organization we recognize that we are located on and work within the sovereign territories of California Native peoples who have been in first relation with this land since time immemorial. As such, we honor our California Indian relatives deeply in our first circles of service.

In 2021, we were honored to welcome Edward “Redbird” Willie (Pomo, Paiute, Wintu, and Wailaki) traditional knowledge holder, traditional skills specialist, and Indigenous permaculture design expert, to join the team as our first Land Manager at Heron Shadow. In addition, Redbird became the first full-time resident of the land allowing us to bring an ancestral relative back home.



Heron Shadow logo art by Redbird Willie



JOHN JAIRO VALENCIA

MEDIA

NATIVE MEDIA PLAYS A VITAL ROLE IN OUR ORGANIZATION AS DOCUMENTATION, cultural revitalization, and educational sharing is central to our community work. Culturally appropriate, on-line, accessible teachings, and skills sharing materials were the highest requests we received from community in 2021, particularly as we continued to navigate lockdowns and health concerns. During this time of staying at home, we focused on building our digital and multimedia educational information, curating materials for an online resource library portal, and developing access protocols for individuals and communities to network and share knowledge.

THROUGH OUR NATIVE MEDIA, WE WERE HONORED TO

- ◉ Partner with Rowen White (Mohawk) and the Native American Food Sovereignty Alliance (NAFSA) to create the short video *Seed Mother: Coming Home*, a project of the growing seed rematriation movement
- ◉ Partner with the American Indian Cultural Center San Francisco to launch a Native Foodways cooking video project to create an hour-long teaching video with local Native elders discussing culturally appropriate harvesting, preparing, and cooking of the fresh market veggies included in our community food donation boxes
- ◉ Build and launch our new online Native Resource Library via our expanded and redesigned website
- ◉ Launch Season 3 of our Native Seed Pod podcast series focused on uplifting the voices of Native women in seed rematriation, farming, and cooking





SARA MONCADA



WENDY JOHNSON





MINGAS DE LA IMAGEN

MINO-NIIBI FUND

THROUGH OUR MINO-NIIBI FUND WE LAUNCHED OUR 2021-2022 GIVING CYCLE, offering a number of programmatic, capacity-building and discretionary grants to Indigenous communities in the Americas and the Pacific, including five new grantee partners. In addition, through our Te Ha Alliance network, we supported an education and awareness building series of meetings and a public webinar with the Sarayaku Community in Ecuador supporting their sovereign governance work and a tribal summit. We hold reciprocity central to our work, including reciprocal learning, sharing, mutual respect and honoring the right to self-determination.



KUAPAINA ASSOCIATES



IXBALAMÉ



NĀ HOA ALOHA O KA PU'UHO'U O HONAU'ANU



SAGE LAPENA

OUR GRANTEE PARTNERS INCLUDE:

- ⊙ **SAGE LAPENA** – To support elderberry teachings and traditional skills workshops by traditional knowledge holder and herbalist Sage LaPena (Nomtipom Wintu) for the Pom-Ti-Da-De women's group of Grindstone Indian Rancheria in Northern California. The women came together to get access to a community building, clean and sanitize the space, source elderberries in partner communities, and bring in clean water for processing as the Rancheria faces challenges in accessing clean water.
- ⊙ **ALLIANCE FOR FELIX COVE** – To support the Coast Miwok family alliance in restoring and protecting ancestral/family land in Pt. Reyes, Tomales Bay, located within the Pt. Reyes National Seashore, including a traditional tule canoe revitalization project.
- ⊙ **R.A.V.E.N.** (Respecting Aboriginal Values and Environmental Needs) – To support the Beaver Lake Cree Nation in their resistance to the ongoing tar sand project and fight for Native land rights and environmental justice, including legal challenges on the impacts from fossil fuel industries in their territories.



MATEO HINOJOSA



SAGE LAPENA



SAGE LAPENA

“*Health is being brought back to this land, and we are seeing affirmations all the way. We see community responses, land responses, animal responses, bird responses, pollinators, waterways returning, and so much more.*”

— Ben Shleffar (Blackfeet), Native Foodways Farmer



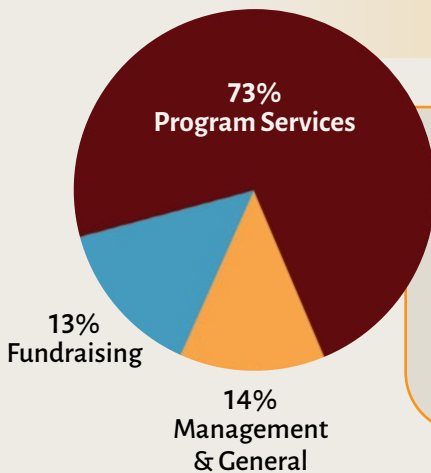


OUR FINANCIAL HEALTH

IN 2021 ADDITIONAL PROGRAM STAFF, ALONG WITH THE COMPLETION OF LARGE-SCALE infrastructure projects at Heron Shadow, allowed us to deepen our investment in the land while improving overall program efficiency. We also worked to increase our fundraising capacity, which enabled us to focus on long-term sustainability strategies, ensuring TCC and Heron Shadow can serve the community for generations to come.

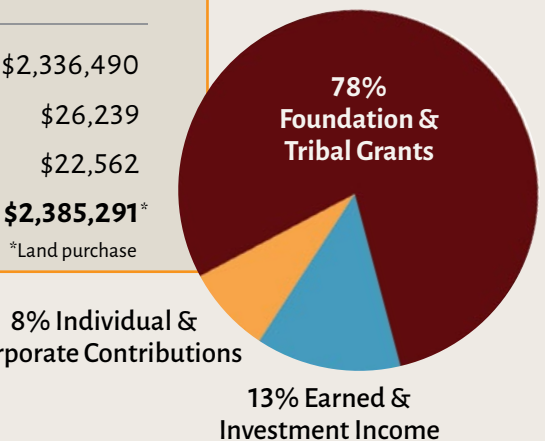
“ There is a beauty and strength in The Cultural Conservancy's work because everything rises from a Native perspective. Programs are run bringing the values and teachings of many cultures and nations together. It isn't about something being placed on a community from the outside... it's about allowing beauty to arise organically from within the community.”

—Victoria Sweet, Director, Indigenous Communities Grantmaking, NoVo Foundation



EXPENSES	2021	2020	2019
Program Services	\$1,189,581	\$762,898	\$787,438
Management & General	\$221,909	\$197,913	\$172,141
Fundraising	\$217,257	\$126,257	\$86,057
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,628,747	\$1,087,068	\$1,045,636

INCOME SOURCES	2021	2020	2019
Foundations & Tribal Grants	\$1,669,464	\$813,316	\$2,336,490
Individual & Corporate Contributions	\$175,615	\$61,040	\$26,239
Earned & Investment Income	\$286,226	\$15,798	\$22,562
TOTAL INCOME	\$2,131,305	\$890,154	\$2,385,291*



*Land purchase

CIRCLE OF KIN

2021 STAFF

Melissa K. Nelson, Ph.D. (Turtle Mountain Chippewa), President & CEO
(succession May 2021)

Sara Moncada, M.A. (Yaqui), Chief Executive Officer (June 2021)

Anthony Reese, Chief Operating Officer

Cynthia J. Frank (Kiowa), Chief Development Officer

Arlene Kato, Chief Program Officer (February 2021)

Mateo Hinojosa (Mestizo Quechua Bolivian), Media Director

Maya Harjo (Quapaw, Shawnee, Muscogee Creek, Seminole), Farm Manager

Evie Ferreira (Yoeme), Native Foodways Manager

Edward "Redbird" Willie (Pomo, Paiute, Wintu, Wailaki), Land Manager

Ben Shleffar (Blackfeet), Native Foodways Farmer

Luke Reppe, Native Foodways Farmer

Nicola Wagenberg, Senior Program Associate

2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kaimana Barcarse (Kanaka Hawai'i), Chair (rotated off Board May 2021)

Melissa K. Nelson, Ph.D. (Turtle Mountain Chippewa), Chair (elected May 2021)

Priscilla Settee, Ph.D. (Cree), Vice-Chair (rotated off Board May 2021)

Lois Ellen Frank, Ph.D. (Kiowa), Vice-Chair (elected June 2021)

Kimla McDonald, M.A., Secretary

Stefano Varese, Ph.D., Treasurer

Debra Harry, Ph.D. (Pyramid Lake Paiute) (elected June 2021)

NATIVE LAND ADVISORY COUNCIL

Gregg Castro (Salinan, Rumsien & Ramaytush Ohlone)

Jacquelyn Ross (Pomo/Coast Miwok)

Dean Hoaglin (Hookooeko Band Coast Miwok/Big Valley Pomo/Yuki/Wailaki)

Edward "Redbird" Willie (Pomo, Paiute, Wintu, Wailaki)

Kaimana Barcarse (Kanaka Hawai'i)

2021 FUNDERS

11th Hour Project

Bancroft Foundation

Ceres Trust

The Christensen Fund

The David & Lucille Packard Foundation

Jessie Smith Noyes Foundation

Kalliopeia Foundation

Manzanita Foundation

Metabolic Studio

NDN Collective

NoVo Foundation

Panta Rhea Foundation

Pawanka Fund

Swift Foundation

Tamalpais Trust

GUIDING PRINCIPLES



Native Peoples have a sacred relationship to the land through their genealogy, original instructions, and cultural lifeways.



Native Peoples and communities have a right to self-determination as outlined in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.



Indigenous knowledge and ways of knowing and being are foundational and play an essential role in protecting environmental integrity and biological diversity.



TCC is committed to intertribal, intergenerational transmission of knowledge and to intercultural alliance-building.

GET INVOLVED

THANK YOU FOR BEING PART OF OUR CIRCLES AND WORKING ALONGSIDE US!



STEP INTO THE CIRCLE

Support the Heron Shadow Native Land Campaign and join us in creating an Indigenous oasis focused on the conservation and regeneration of Indigenous agriculture, Native sciences, and traditional lifeways.

Contact our Chief Development Officer Cynthia Frank at cyndi@nativeland.org.



DONATE

Our work relies on the support of people and organizations like you. Many thanks to all who have generously supported us in protecting and restoring Indigenous cultures.

Please donate today!
nativeland.org/support



VISIT THE LAND

There are many ways to volunteer and we would love to include you in our Volunteer Circle.

Contact us at tcc@nativeland.org for information on our volunteer opportunities.



STAY CONNECTED

Sign up for our newsletter to receive the latest news and stories at www.nativeland.org.

Listen to The Native Seed Pod podcast at nativeseedpod.org



“

Our work here is a continuation of our ancestors' dreams and manifesting those dreams for the next generation.”

—Maya Harjo, Farm Manager



OUR LAND BASES

THE PRESIDIO

San Francisco, California
Unceded Ohlone Land

INDIAN VALLEY ORGANIC FARM & GARDEN

College of Marin, Novato, California
Sovereign Territory of the Coast Miwok and Southern Pomo Peoples

HERON SHADOW

Sebastopol, California
Sovereign Territory of the Coast Miwok and Southern Pomo Peoples



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